

REMARKS

The present amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing as indicated. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 9-29 have been withdrawn.

§102

Claims 1-3, 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,908,423 to Kashuba et al. (“Kashuba”). Independent claim 1 has been amended to state that the securing feature of the reamer secures the first component to the second component in at least first and second relationships. Kashuba is directed to a reaming system that includes a shaft 12 and a first reamer 22 and a second reamer 44. Abstract. The pivot point 29 of Kashuba does not include any sort of locking mechanism that would allow the two reamers 44, 22 to be locked together in a particular position. Instead, during use, the second reamer 44 walks relative to the first reamer 22. In other words, the second reamer 44 does not stay in a single position relative to the first reamer 22; the second reamer 44 pivots all around the joint 29, creating a circular path.

Unlike the reamer of Kashuba, the reamer as recited in claim 1 of the present application includes a securing feature that can lock the first and second components in a particular position. Instead of reaming a circular path, the reamer as recited in claim 1 reams a straight line.

Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Conclusion

For the above-described reasons it is respectfully submitted that the rejections to the claims have been overcome and that all remaining claims, namely claims 1-3 and 5-8 are currently in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Cynthia K. Barnett

/Cynthia K. Barnett/

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 48,655

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(574) 372-7332
Date: April 3, 2008